

REMARKS

Claims 1-30 are pending in the case. In the present office action, claims 1-6, 9-17 and 21-23 are rejected, claims 24-30 are allowed, claims 7, 8 and 18-20 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but are allowable if rewritten in independent form. In the present submission, claims 1, 3-5, 8, 12, 13, 19 and 20 have been amended and claims 2, 6, 7 and 15-18 have been cancelled. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claim Objections

The Examiner objected to claim 1 due to informalities. Claim 1 has been amended to correct the informalities as required by the Examiner. Withdrawal of the claim objections is respectfully requested.

§103 Rejections

Claims 1-6, 9-17 and 21-23 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over different combination of cited references, including Yoneyama J.P. Publication 04-313949, Hyncek et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,229,133), Dill (U.S. Pat. No. 4,541,075), and Zhou et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,909,026).

In the present submission, claim 1 has been amended to include all of the limitations of claims 2, 6 and 7. Claims 2, 6 and 7 have been cancelled. Since the Examiner indicates that claim 7 is allowable, claim 1, as amended to include all the limitations of claim 7, is allowable over the cited references.

Claims 2 and 6 have been cancelled and thus the §103 rejection as to these claims are moot.

Claims 3-5 and 8-11, dependent upon claim 1, are patentable over the cited references at least for the same reason that claim 1 is patentable. In the present submission, claims 3-5 and 8 have been amended to update the claim dependency.

In the present submission, claim 12 has been amended to include the limitations of claims 15-18. Claims 15-18 have been cancelled. Since the Examiner indicates that claim 18 is allowable, claim 12, as amended, is allowable over the cited references.

Claims 15-17 have been cancelled and thus the §103 rejection as to these claims are moot.

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Claims 13, 14, 19-23, dependent upon claim 12, are patentable over the cited references at least for the same reason that claim 12 is patentable. In the present submission, claim 13 has been amended to clarify the claim and claims 19 and 20 have been amended to update the claim dependency.

For the above reasons, claims 1, 3-5, 8-14 and 19-23 are in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the §103(a) rejection of these claims is respectfully requested.

Double Patenting Rejection

Claims 1 and 12 of the present application have been provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 35, 42 and 46 of copending Application No. 09/567,786 in view of Yoneyama.


Since claims 1 and 12 have been amended in the present submission, Applicant submits that the double patenting rejection of these claims is now moot.

CONCLUSION

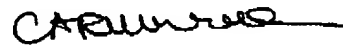
After the present amendment, claims 1, 3-5, 8-14 and 19-30 are pending in the present application. For the reasons stated above, claims 1, 3-5, 8-14 and 19-30 are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner would like to discuss any aspect of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (408) 382-0480.

Certification of Facsimile Transmission

I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.

 November 4, 2004
Signature Date

Respectfully submitted,



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